

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
MEDICAL SCHOOL

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN GENETICS  
1133 E. CATHERINE STREET  
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

TELEPHONE:  
ANN ARBOR, 663-1511  
EXTENSION 3202

May 29, 1962

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
Department of Genetics  
Stanford University Medical Center  
Palo Alto, California

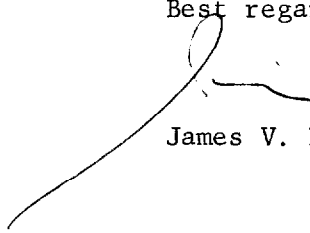
Dear Josh:

I am sorry if I sounded over-sensitive in my last letter, but perhaps I am: trying to staff that project was one prolonged headache; there was a notable lack of enthusiasm for going to Japan on the part of our genetic colleagues. I fully agree with you concerning the desirability of getting this into competent Japanese hands. As a matter of fact, as you will see in the enclosed very first publication on this study, this was the objective from the beginning. However, in the early days we were unable to make substantial progress in this direction, primarily because: (1) this was regarded by the Japanese as an "Occupation-sponsored" activity -- and you can visualize how our best scientists would be cooperating with the Japanese were they occupying this country; (2) by direction of the Occupation, we were affiliated with the National Institute of Health of the Ministry of Welfare -- the universities answer to the Ministry of Education, and there is an antagonism between these two Ministries that effectively precludes any kind of cooperation and kept us from getting over onto the university side through government channels; (3) you can visualize the disorganization of Japanese science following the termination of hostilities; and (4) there were no trained Japanese human geneticists in our sense of the word. So there you have it. On the other hand, the situation has now changed to the point where, should we move forward on the matter of chromosomal abnormalities, I would certainly hope that this could be pretty well turned over to Japanese, working with our old records and out of the ABCC. Incidentally, the matter of studies on the  $F_2$  is now coming up for discussion, since the first of these will be along in several years. I do believe that this should be made a Japanese activity, although from the scientific standpoint, would think of it as the kiss of death to saddle some able young man with this very difficult piece of bookkeeping for the next 20 years.

*Tames U Neel*

No answer expected.

Best regards,

  
James V. Neel, M.D.

JVN:rt  
Enclosure